

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5340

USICA FOR AR, NSC FOR PASTOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: MORE BIREIFING PAPER LEAKS: NICARAGUA, AFRICA KND
CUBAN EXILE TERRORISM

TAGSC PERP VE US NU CU XA

1. SUMMARY TWO NEW UPI STORIES (DATELINED WASHDC JUNE 10) DESCRIBING CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING PAPERS PREPARED FOR PRES CARTER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA APPEARED IN THE CARACAS PRESS JUNE 11. ONE REPORTS THAT THE US AND VENEZUELA DIFFER ON HOW TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF NICARAGUA, DESCRIBES THE POSITION OF EACH GOVERNMENT (ACCURATELY) AND QUOTES PEREZ ON HIS VIEW OF SOMOZA. THE SECOND STATES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ADVISED TO ASK VENEZUELA TO PRESS CUBA TO CEASEITS AFRICAN INTERVENTION. IT ALSO DESCRIBES IN ACCURATE DETAIL THE MARCH 16-17 VISIT OF THE FBI BRIEFING TEAM ON CUBAN EXILE TERRORISM, AND THE REASONS WHYWE SENT IT. BOTH STORIES CLEARLY PLACE PEREX IN A MOST EMBARRASSING PUBLIC POSITION,

AND WILL FUEL THE FIRESOF HIS ANGER,AS WELL AS AFFECT HIS CONFIDENCE IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. END SUMMARY
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2. THE NICARAGUA STORY STATES THAT DESPITE US-VENEZUELAN AGREEMTN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER HEMISPHERE MATTERS, THERE ARE DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO RESOLVE THE NICARAGUAN PROLEM, INCLUDING THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF SOMOZA. THE UPI STORY QUOTES THE BRIEFING PAPER AS STATING THAT, WHILE VENEZUELA SEEKS A QUICK SOLUTION THROUGH SOMOZA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM POWR, THE US FAVORS A MORE CAUTIOUS

APPROACH TO AVOID BEING PERCEIVED AS INTERVENTIONIST. THE US, ACCORDING TO THE STORY, PREFERS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION USING ITS INFLUENCE IN NICARAGUA. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WISHES TO AVOID INSTABILITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA; AVOID INTERVENTION IN NICARAGUA AND MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY, AVOIDING THE IMPRESSION OF TILTING TOWARD EITHER SOMOZA OR THE OPPOSITION. VENEZUELA, THE PAPERS ARE SAID TO STATE, SEEKS TO END SOMOZA'S REGIME, PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND AVOID THE EMERGENCE OF ANY REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT "INCLU

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ING A GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD HAVE LINKS WITH FIDEL CASTRO, SOMETHING WHICH PEREZ FEARS COULD OCCUR IF SOMOZA STAYS TOO LONG IN POWER"; THE UPI STORY INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING QUOTES FROM THE BRIEFING PAPERS " PEREZ FRANKLY CONSIDERS SOMOZA'S REGIME ABOMINABLE AND BELIEVES SOMOZA HAS TO AGREE TO LEAVE POWER BEFORE THE SITUATION GETS OUT OF CONTROL". PEREZ BELIEVES "THAT WE ARE NOT VIEWING THE SITUATION FOR WHAT IT IS AND THAT IF WE DO NOT NOW OFFER MORE ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION, WE COULD FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO TOLERATE A CASTRO TYPE REGIME OR EARLY INTERVENE". SOTYR WINDS UP STATING THAT US AND VENEZUELA APPEAR TO AGREE THAT WHAT IS AT ISSUE IN NICARAGUA IS NOT JUST THAT COUNTRY BUT ALSO THE EVOLUTION TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

3. THE SECOND STORY REPORTS THAT CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS PREPARED FOR PRESIDENT CARTER RECOMMENDED THAT PRES CARTER, DURING HIS VISIT TO CARACAS, ASK PRES PEREZ TO PRESSURE CONFIDENTIAL

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CASTRO TO END CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA. THE UPI STORY THEN GOES ON TO STATE THAT, REFLECTING THE CLOSE AND HIGH-LEVEL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND VENEZUELA IN COMBATING ANTI-CASTRO TERRORISM, A SELECT TEAM OF FBI AND STATE DEPT OFFICIALS VISITED CARACAS MARCH 16 AND 17 TO GIVE AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING TO PEREZ. THE UPI DESPATCH QUOTES THE BRIEFING PAPERS AS STATING THAT THE FBI VISIT WAS INTENDED "TO DISPEL THE APPARENT DOUBTS OF PRES PEREZ" ABOUT WHETHER THE USG WAS DOING EVERYTHING IT COULD TO COMBAT THIS TYPE OF TERRORISM." BRIEFING PAPERS ARE QUOTED AS STATING THAT PEREZ " ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER WE ARE COOPERATED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING THE FURNISHING OF RELEVANT INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO HIS SECURITY SERVICES." THE DESPATCH INCLUDES THE FURTHER QUOTE THAT THE FBI BRIEFING "DEMONSTRATED TO PEREZ OUR SINCERE WISH TO SHARE WITH HIM OUR INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THOSE TERRORISTS." THE UPI DESPATCH ALSO ACCURATELY QUOTES THE AGENDA FOR THE BRIEFING.

4. COMMENT: THESE STORIES TRULY HURT. THEY ARE FIRST CLEARLY ACCURATE. THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI MISSION, PARTICULARLY, WHICH WAS KNOWN CONFIDENTIALLY ONLY TO A VERY FEW PEOPLE IN THE GOV AND WAS

SENSITIVE, WILL BE FOR PEREZ A CLEARL AUTENTICATOR OF THE ACCURACY
AND
OFFICIAL NATURE OF THE UPI DESPATCHES. SECONDLY
THEY PLACE PEREZ, PARTICULARY, AND THE GOV IN A MOST EMBARRASING
PUBLIC POSITION. THEY CLEARLY PREJUDICE HIS RELATIONS WITY
SOMOZA, AND THE LATTER WILL NO DOUBT CITE ALLTHIS WITH GLEE. THEY
WILL COMPLICATE PEREZ RELATIONS WITH CASTRO AND HIS INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS WITH THE LARGE CUBAN EXILE COLONY HERE. THEY WILL
REDUCE HIS ABILITY TO BE HELPFUL IN MATTERS SUCH AS AFRICA, OR
CUBA. THIRDLY THEY MUST SERIOUSLY DAMAGE PEREZ CONFIDENCE
IN DEALING WITH US AND PRESIDENT CARTER. IT IS HARD TO SEE
HOW WE CAN EVER BE CANDID WITH US AGIN. FINALLY, HE
AND HIS ADMINISTRATION ARE PLACED IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION
IN THE MIDELE OF AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND HE HAS BEEN GIVEN
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PLAUSIBLE GROUND FOR CHARGING THAT THE LEAK OF THESE PAPERS IS
SERIOUS INTERFERENCE IN VENEZUELA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
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